MIT's Oldest and
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thetech.com

The Tech

Established 1881

Volume 143, Number 5

Thursday, March 23, 2023

WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 58°F | 44°F Chance of rain.

FRI: 52°F | 36°F Partly sunny.

SAT: 43°F | 39°F Rain likely.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MIT EDUCATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Middle school students learn about rockets from MIT Rocket Team and compete in a stomp rocket competition at Spark, a weekend-long teaching and learning extravaganza organized by MIT Educational Studies Program, Sunday.

GSU bargains with MIT administration on various discrimination and economic proposals in Feb.

Negotiations between Graduate Student Union and MIT administration continue.

By Isabella Duan

STAFF WRITER

The MIT Graduate Student Union (GSU) and MIT administration participated in six bargaining sessions in 2023. Issues debated ranged from discrimination and harassment services to safety and tuition.

The GSU is led by elected Bargaining Committees, which represent the union in bargaining sessions. The Bargaining Committees were also supported by the GSU's Contract Action Team (CAT), who helped "build support and participation in collective action" by keeping "the campus informed throughout the bargaining process".

The bargaining team for the MIT administration is led by senior academic leader Vice Chancellor Ian Waitz. Additional representatives included deans and senior leaders from the Institute Discrimination and Harassment Response Office (IDHR), Environment, Health and Safety (EHS), and MIT Medical.

Feb. 17

The debate on Feb. 17 heavily focused on discrimination. Additional attending organizations included LGBTQ+ Grad at MIT, the Black Graduate Student Association, and the Latinx Graduate Student Association.

According to their website, the GSU argued that "the IDHR process isn't supportive, is difficult to navigate, and that their members don't trust MIT and IDHR to advocate for the truth."

To provide evidence of a lack of trust from graduate students, the GSU utilized data from the MIT AAU Campus Climate Survey. In particular, they highlighted the disparity between the number of graduate students who reported facing discrimination and the number of such students who sought help through IDHR.

In their summary of the bargaining session, GSU wrote that "MIT's response was inadequate and insulting." The team was displeased with MIT's failure to address non-disclosure agreements. Graduate students are currently required to sign non-disclosure agreements in order to file a harassment, discrimination, and bullying claim.

The GSU bargaining team believes that these requirements may limit graduate students' freedom to find help. In particular, they disagree with MIT's claim that "it would be illegal for them to implement [union grievances procedure] for real recourse in parallel to existing IDHR mechanisms."

"MIT owes us a response on this matter at our upcoming… bargaining session," GSU wrote following the session. "After several months of negligence, it is past time to address this urgent issue."

Chancellor Nobles and Provost Barnhart PhD '88 responded by providing a summary of steps the Institute has taken in recent years, including "working directly with students and strengthen[ing] its discrimination and harassment policies and programs." Nobles and Barnhart stated that these policies include investing additional resources in anti-retaliation policies.

When asked by *The Tech* about actions taken to improve the IDHR process, Nobles and Barnhart responded that MIT "has invested additional resources" into the Violence and Prevention Response (VPR) and IDHR offices, "refined anti-retaliation policies," providing "guaranteed transitional funding" for students in unhealthy advising situations," and offered additional "mentoring and harassment prevention training.

Another point for discussion was workplace safety and leave-of-absence policies. During the session, "MIT has agreed to significantly strengthen protections for workplace health and safety" and expand beyond basic guidelines offered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, according to GSU.

GSU, Page 2

Alumni Wang Pool to close for renovation

On March 27, the Alumni Wang pool will be closed for renovations. The rest of the Alumni Wang fitness areas will remain open, although MIT Recreation cited the possibility of disruptions.

The pool, constructed in 1941, requires extensive repairs that will last from eight to eleven months. According to an email from MIT Recreation, the work will encompass replacement of tiles on the pool deck, installation of a desiccant dryer system in the basement, and other measures to ensure continued use of the pool.

Temporary membership accommodations will be made available to those who swim regularly at the pool, including waived cancellation fees and the ability to rent a locker at the Zesiger Center or DuPont facilities for no additional cost.

— Alex Tang

IN SHORT

Mar. 20-24 is the final exam period for half-term subjects.

Mar. 27-31 is spring break!

April 3 is the first day of half-term subjects.

April 5 is the day when fourth quarter Physical Education and Wellness classes begin.

Interested in joining The Tech? Email *join@tech.mit.edu*.

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu*.

CAMPUS LIFE

Read our latest campus life articles on housing troubles, the power of song, and Auntie Matter!

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ELLIE'S GAMING CORNER

ARTS, p. 10

RESTAURANT REVIEW

ARTS, p. 11

PI DAY

See photos from Pi Day 2023.

PHOTO SPREAD, p. 8

RECOURSE & REFLECTIONS

Read these guest columns from various student groups such as the BSU, LGSA, and the GSU.

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WEATHER

Rainy days

By M. Geogdzhayeva

Spring has sprung, or so it feels. As if on cue on March 21st, the thermometer jumped up to a balmy 57°F, luring students out of their dorms and filling Kresge with smiling faces. Unfortunately, these few days of warmth and sun are just an early taste of what April will bring.

Starting today and going into the weekend, temperatures will drop, just as an approaching front brings back the familiar Boston gray and rain. Maybe the Northeast decided it couldn't compete with sunny Puerto Rico this spring break–and why should it? We'll all be back here to enjoy spring when it does come back to stay.

There are, of course, things much worse than another gray weekend in Boston. On the other side of the country, California is being bombarded–almost literally–by intense rain and winds. Born out of yet another atmospheric river, a so-called "bomb cyclone" hit the West Coast yesterday after forming rapidly in the Pacific.

The storm system brought extreme wind gusts of up to 100 mph, causing two casualties and power outages throughout much of the Bay Area. This is just the latest in an unusually wet and stormy season for California, so if you're traveling to the Golden State for spring break–pack a raincoat, it might come in handy.

Extended Forecast

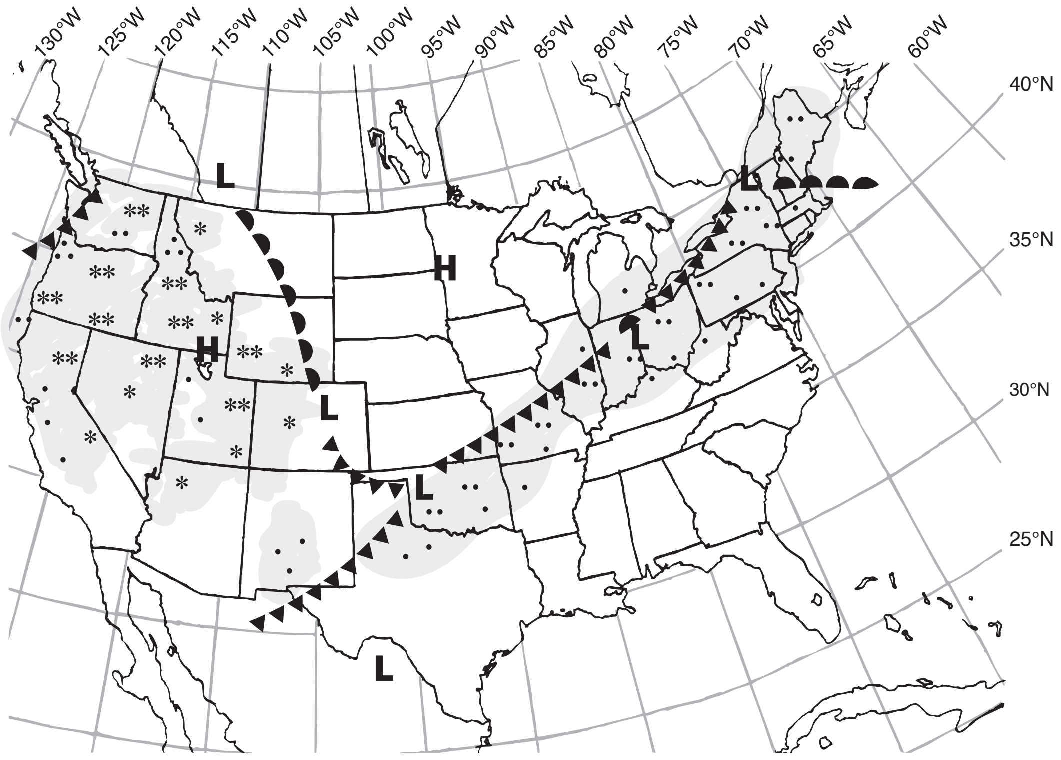
Today: Cloudy, chance of rain. High around 58°F (14°C). Southwest winds around 7-15 mph.

Tonight: Chance of rain. Low around 44°F (7°C). West winds around 11-13 mph.

Tomorrow: Partly sunny. High around 52°F (11°C) and low around 36°F (2°C). Northwest winds around 10 mph.

Saturday: Rain likely, starting in the afternoon. High of 43°F (6°C) and low of 39°F (4°C). East winds around 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly clear. High around 52°F (11°C) and low around 38°F (3°C). West winds around 15-20 mph.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, March 23, 2023

Weather Systems	
H	High Pressure
L	Low Pressure
§	Hurricane

Weather Fronts	
▬ ▬ ▬	Trough
◓◓◓◓	Warm Front
▲▲▲▲▲	Cold Front
▲◒▲◒	Stationary Front

Precipitation Symbols	Snow	Rain
Showers	* ▽	• ▽
Light	*	•
Moderate	**	• •
Heavy	⁂	∴

Other Symbols	
≡	Fog
☈	Thunderstorm
∞	Haze

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

MIT wins Putnam Competition again

MIT students claim the top five spots for the third straight competition, 14 out of top 16, 70 out of top 100.

By Alex Tang
NEWS EDITOR

MIT won the 2022 William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition, a prestigious math competition for undergraduate students in North America and Canada.

Since 2019, MIT has claimed all five of the highest-ranking spots, known as Putnam Fellows. The Putnam Fellows for this year's competition were Daniel Zhu '23, Minyang Deng '24, Brian Liu '25, Papon Lapate '26, and Luke Robitaille '26. Zhu has been honored as a fellow every year that he has competed.

Of the next 11 highest scorers, nine are from MIT. In all, 70 of the top 100 participants in the competition were from MIT, a marked increase from past competitions.

Additionally, Binwei Yan '24 received the Elizabeth Lowell Putnam Prize for the highest-scoring female competitor; since 2018, the Lowell Putnam Prize has been awarded to an MIT student.

Yufei Zhao SB'10 PhD '15, a professor of mathematics and a former Putnam participant, teaches the Putnam Seminar (18.A34), a first-year seminar designed to help students prepare for the contest. In an email to the Tech, Zhao said that "our students have worked hard to achieve this outstanding performance, and we are extremely proud of their achievements."

The Putnam Competition, a six-hour-long 12 question-long exam, was held on Dec. 3, 2022. All questions on the Putnam are proof-based. The median score was one out of 120 possible points, according to MIT News.

"They [the organizers] held the test in Walker Memorial and it was all full, so it had a similar feel to a final," said Garrett Heller '26, a Putnam competitor who received an Honorable Mention.

With regards to preparation, many of the competitors have a contest math background dating back to high school. Heller said that he "prepared quite a decent bit for the Putnam" by studying past Putnam exams.

Putnam results can be found at the website of Mathematical Association of America, which administered the exam.

MIT and GSU continue with bargain sessions

GSU, from Page 1

"Health and safety is a huge success for us to highlight," the GSU said.

The union also presented a consolidated article on Leaves of Absence which included "full pay and benefits for graduate workers taking medical and family leave." Currently, graduate students on medical leave relinquish medical benefits and pay, which GSU argues undermines financial stability for students.

Feb. 27

The discussion on discrimination continued during the Feb. 27 bargaining session. The MIT administration representatives were led by Mark C. DiVincenzo, head of the Office of the General Counsel.

The GSU continued to push to allow graduate students to file union grievance procedures to report discrimination. Though MIT offered no counter-proposals on the nondiscrimination article, GSU hopes to see them in future sessions.

Another discussion focused on Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT) for international students. According to GSU's bargaining survey, CPT/OPT access is the most important issue facing international workers, who consist of over 40% of our graduate workforce. As such, the team pushed for CPT/OPT to be implemented in all graduate programs, which MIT refuses to implement.

GSU proposed a set of economic proposals to the Institute built on the proposals the union had been working on since last year. The session also included thirty-three new economic proposals by GSU on issues including compensation, tuition, medical benefits, and commuting subsidies.

Future Sessions

Both GSU and MIT have stated that they hope to continue their work through bargaining proposals.

In an email to *The Tech*, Nobles and Barnhart wrote that the "Institute's bargaining team believes the negotiations are productive and collegial." They also wish to "we want to find common ground on this critical and complex topic in subsequent bargaining sessions".

The GSU stated that they hope to reach a tentative agreement with the MIT administration on "real recourse," "international workers' rights," and "union shop." Furthermore, they hope to see MIT provide a response to their economic proposals.

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Sol. to Spring Break

from page 15

9	3	8	2	1	7	4	6	5
7	6	1	4	5	9	8	3	2
2	5	4	6	8	3	1	7	9
3	7	6	9	2	8	5	4	1
8	1	5	7	4	6	2	9	3
4	2	9	5	3	1	7	8	6
6	4	2	3	7	5	9	1	8
1	9	7	8	6	2	3	5	4
5	8	3	1	9	4	6	2	7

Sol. to I Believe in You!

from page 15

7	2	8	1	5	6	4	9	3
3	4	1	8	2	9	6	5	7
9	5	6	4	3	7	8	2	1
8	3	5	6	9	1	2	7	4
2	1	4	3	7	8	5	6	9
6	7	9	2	4	5	1	3	8
5	8	3	7	6	4	9	1	2
1	9	2	5	8	3	7	4	6
4	6	7	9	1	2	3	8	5

Sol. to Cheese Choices

from page 15

M	A	L	E	■	■	A	L	A	■	A	M	A	S	S
A	L	A	N	■	S	T	A	R	■	P	I	V	O	T
C	I	T	Y	B	L	O	C	K	■	P	R	I	D	E
A	C	T	A	L	O	N	E	■	S	E	E	S	A	W
W	E	E	■	O	T	C	■	S	P	A	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	W	H	E	E	L	A	R	O	U	N	D
C	E	D	E	S	■	■	M	A	R	■	B	R	I	E
A	L	E	X	■	C	L	A	W	S	■	O	N	K	P
P	A	L	E	■	L	E	I	■	■	R	E	S	E	T
S	L	I	C	E	O	F	L	I	F	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	A	N	T	■	S	O	N	■	M	E	T
C	E	R	I	S	E	■	F	O	R	E	B	E	A	R
O	D	I	S	T	■	S	A	N	D	W	E	D	G	E
T	I	T	L	E	■	A	R	T	S	■	L	I	E	N
S	T	E	E	R	■	G	E	O	■	■	L	A	R	D

Sol. to Calling Bill Haley

from page 16

■	B	R	A	■	M	I	S	E	R	■	P	H	D	S
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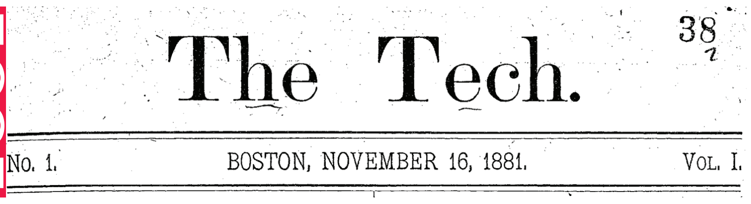
M	O	C	H	A	J	A	V	A	F	R	A	P	P	E
I	K	E	■	P	O	S	E	R	■	E	C	O	L	E
T	E	A	S	E	R	S	■	■	C	M	I	N	O	R
■	■	H	E	R	S	■	C	U	R	A	D	■	■	■
E	P	E	E	■	■	■	A	M	O	R	■	B	F	F
D	I	A	M	O	N	D	B	A	C	K	T	A	I	L
T	E	D	■	S	E	A	L	■	■	■	B	L	E	U
■	■	■	S	M	O	R	E	■	C	L	A	D	■	■
N	O	R	T	O	N	■	■	F	L	A	R	E	U	P
E	C	H	O	S	■	C	A	R	O	M	■	A	S	A
W	H	O	L	E	W	H	E	A	T	B	A	G	E	L
A	R	N	E	■	E	A	R	T	H	■	P	L	I	E
T	E	E	N	■	D	R	O	S	S	■	T	E	T	■

1881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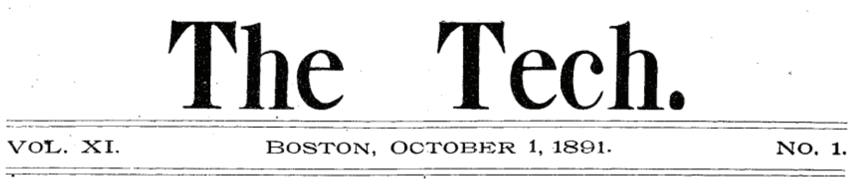
1891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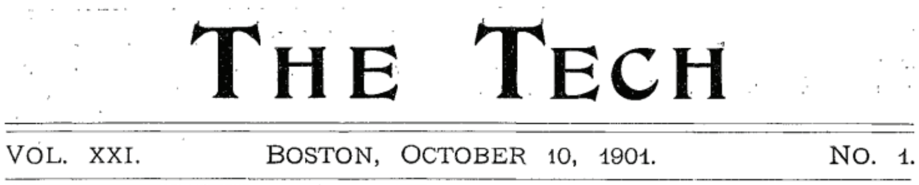
VOL. XI. BOSTON, OCTOBER 1, 1891. NO. 1.

1901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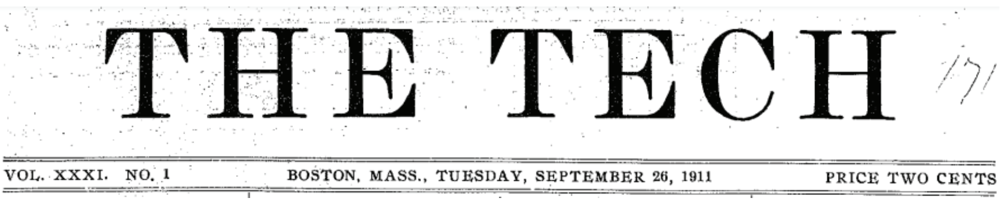
VOL. XXI. BOSTON, OCTOBER 10, 1901. NO. 1.

1911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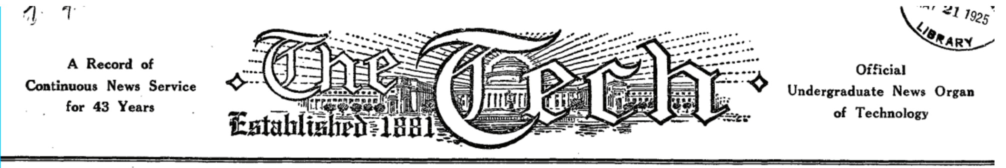
VOL. XXXI. NO. 1 BOSTON, MASS., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1911 PRICE TWO CENTS

1921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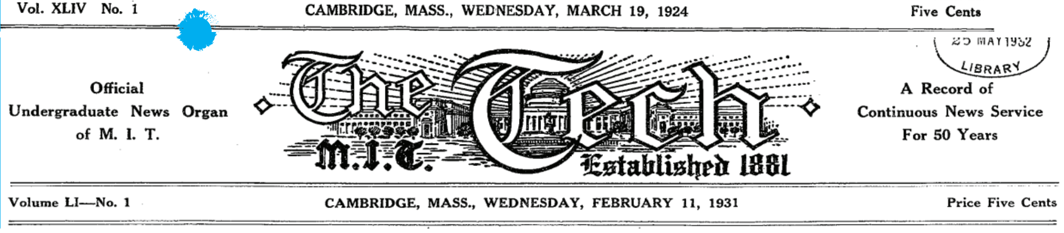
Vol. XLIV No. 1 CAMBRIDGE, MASS., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1924 Five Cents

1931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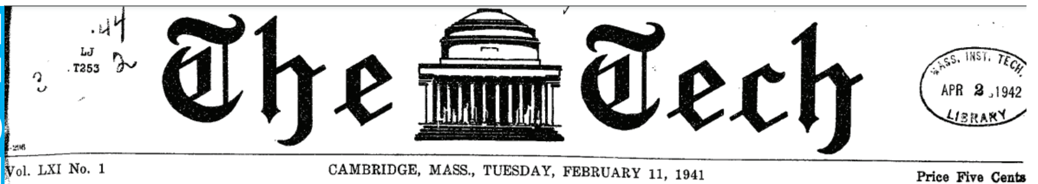
Volume LI—No. 1 CAMBRIDGE, MASS., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1931 Price Five Cents

1941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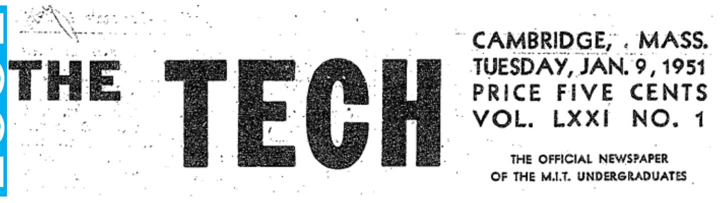
1951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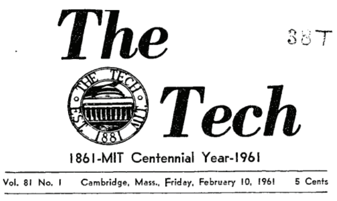
1961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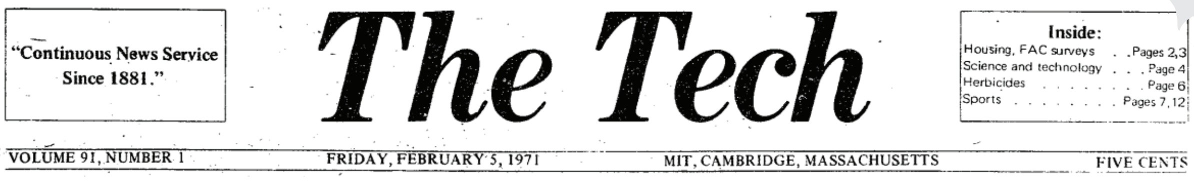
1861-MIT Centennial Year-1961

Vol. 81 No. 1 Cambridge, Mass., Friday, February 10, 1961 5 Cents

1971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Science and technology . . . Page 4
Herbicides . . . . Page 6
Sports . . . . Pages 7,12

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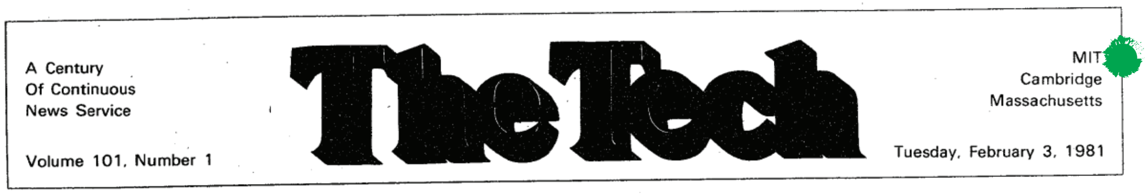
1981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Volume 101, Number 1

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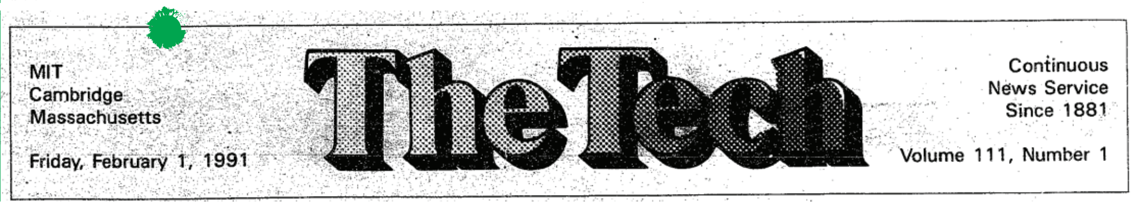
Cambridge
Massachusetts

Tuesday, February 3, 1981

1991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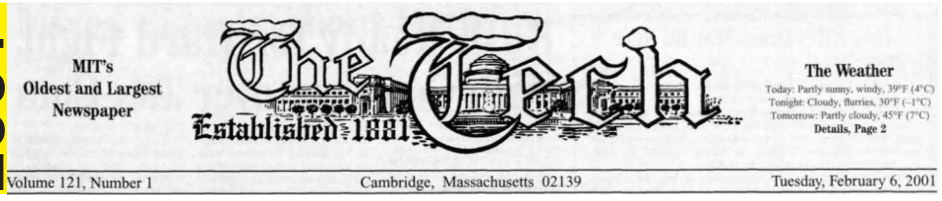
2001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The Weather
Today: Partly sunny, windy, 39°F (4°C)
Tonight: Cloudy, flurries, 30°F (–1°C)
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 45°F (7°C)
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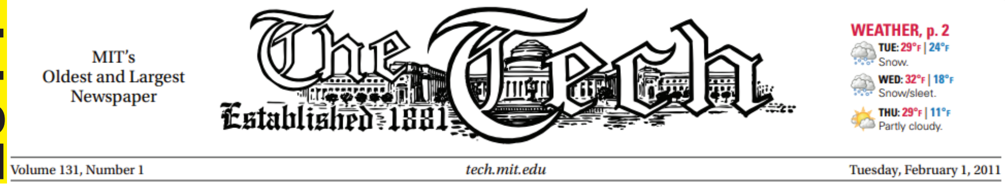
Volume 121, Number 1 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 Tuesday, February 6, 2001

2011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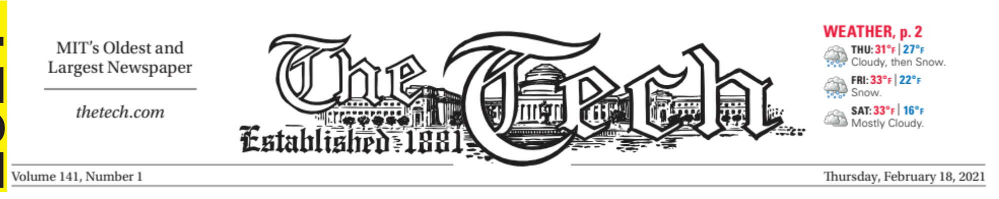
WEATHER, p. 2
TUE: 29°F | 24°F
Snow.
WED: 32°F | 18°F
Snow/sleet.
THU: 29°F | 11°F
Partly cloudy.

Volume 131, Number 1 *tech.mit.edu* Tuesday, February 1, 2011

2021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WEATHER, p. 2
THU: 31°F | 27°F
Cloudy, then Snow.
FRI: 33°F | 22°F
Snow.
SAT: 33°F | 16°F
Mostly Cloudy.

Volume 141, Number 1 Thursday, February 18, 2021

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GUEST COLUMN

HRS is Failing Undergrads

I won't be living on campus next year — but not by choice.

By Elijah Fernández

In February 2021, I arrived on campus for the first time. I had made it through my first semester at MIT, although it had felt more like an addendum to high school since I'd only taken GIRs and hadn't really tried to make friends with anybody over Zoom — a common experience for many 2024s. My dad helped me move my bags into MacGregor House, said a quick masked goodbye, and then immediately started his trip back home, leaving me alone in my room. Q-Week began with a Discord call to meet my new floormates, the same people who are still my closest friends here and my main support network. That virtual semester was filled with late nights getting to know my new suitemates, an endless stream of the cartoon *Regular Show*, post-all-nighter sunrise viewings, and a wonderful trip to Rockport to cap it all off. Despite everyone on the floor growing quite close and living together without issue, we went our separate ways to explore different dorms that fall. A few of us ended up at Simmons, and while we liked it there, we quickly realized that we missed living together and began planning to return to MacGregor for our junior year.

That first somewhat regular semester was full of all kinds of ups and downs, and I was excited to be back home for winter break spending time with family, seeing my high school friends, and getting some much-needed rest and relaxation. However, it was not long after getting back home that I started to rest too much — sleeping almost all day, every day. I was waking up at 10am, going back to bed by noon, and then sleeping until my family woke me for dinner, before passing out again for the night. And it wasn't good sleep, either — I was having night sweats and hallucinatory fever dreams all the time. After two weeks of back-to-back doctor's visits and a litany of blood work and scans, I was diagnosed with Stage III non-Hodgkin diffuse large B cell lymphoma, just two days after my 20th birthday.

My family and friends were understandably terrified, but to be honest, throughout those five months of chemotherapy, I was never particularly scared. I had incredible care from all my doctors and nurses and was told from the very beginning that this kind of cancer responded very well to treatment. The part that bothered me the most was having to take a semester away from school on medical leave. I greatly missed spending time with my friends doing nothing of particular value, the daily routine of going to classes and working on problem sets, and everything else that wasn't being stuck in a hospital bed all day.

During this time, my friends from MIT came to visit me at the beginning of spring break. I know it must have been hard for them to see me in that state, but I nonetheless couldn't have appreciated their company more. It was so nice to see them again, and I was happy just to spend time around my friends, chatting about things that didn't matter, as if everything had gone back to "normal." Along with our usual light-hearted conversation and our bizarre humor, one of the things we talked about the most was our plans for being back in MacGregor. We jokingly discussed making posters to find a sixth person to fill our suite, or our ideas for floor brunch every weekend, and were overall looking forward to the upcoming fall very much.

As my treatment ended that summer, my life slowly started to become "normal" again. I was working at a summer camp, my hair began to grow back slowly but surely, I could spend time with friends without risk of becoming sick easily, and I even got to go on vacation with my family. Over these months, I started to keep note of how many days in a row I could go without thinking about the unfortunate happenings of the year. It became a measure of normalcy for me. Working at camp, I could go a day or two. On vacation in Jamaica, as we visited family, however, hardly a day passed where I didn't have to talk about my experience to everyone who was so worried about me for all those months, but unprompted, I still wasn't thinking about cancer.

As August wrapped up, I was getting antsy about returning to campus, but I still didn't know where I would be living. I made several long-distance calls to Housing & Residential Services (HRS) with my bad cell service. Eventually, I got through and learned that I would not be offered housing in an undergraduate residence hall. Students who take a leave of absence are not guaranteed housing upon return to campus. I knew this, but I was hopeful that I would get an offer from the waitlist. I did not. In a few days, I would instead be arriving at Tang Hall.

And I adjusted to living in Tang Hall. I adjusted to the longer walk from the western extremes of campus to my classes in Building 2, and to generally not being around other undergrads. I would, and still do, stay until the wee hours of the morning in MacGregor with my friends, who welcomed me back to MIT as if the whole year had just been a bad dream. Then I walked back just to sleep in Tang for the night; it's been a house, but certainly not my home. It was harder to have days without thinking about the past year when I knew the only reason I was walking all the way down Amherst Alley was a direct result of my unfortunate circumstances. But I also adjusted to this, and have had long spans where things felt normal again.

Now the spring semester has rolled around, and I'm more than a year out from my diagnosis and the beginning of my treatment. Thankfully, my experience with cancer has few tangible manifestations in my daily life anymore. I have a few scars, and I learned from genetic testing that I shouldn't eat fava beans, but that's the extent of it. At least, that's what I thought it would be. For yet another year, I will not be guaranteed undergraduate housing by MIT, since I do not currently live in undergrad housing. Taking time away from school to let doctors literally save my life meant forfeiting my rights to housing, and that will roll over into the next year. I will likely spend another year not living in undergrad housing. What's worse, I learned that my current spot in Tang Hall isn't secure either, and I will be on the waitlist for both graduate and undergraduate housing.

Where you live while at MIT can really shape your experience, especially as an undergrad. Each of the dorms has a unique culture, set of traditions, and vibe. Not being around other undergrads and partaking in one of these communities can feel very isolating at times. This is why it's so important that HRS guarantees on-campus housing to undergrads. They seem to understand this too: the HRS website talks about how a dorm is much more than just a place you sleep, calling dorms "central" to a student's experience. The fact that all first-year students are guaranteed housing also demonstrates that HRS considers students having a dorm community to be important. Placing me and other undergrads in graduate housing, along with not guaranteeing us housing next year, however, directly calls into question how much HRS really cares about guaranteed housing for anybody else.

Obviously, things could have been a lot worse. I am extremely fortunate to have had everything turn out the way it did, in terms of my health, and the support I received from my family and friends through the last year was integral to my being able to bounce back so quickly. However, I have not been supported by HRS in the same way; in fact, they've made a medical situation that should already be resolved into an ongoing issue in my life. I think it's evident their protocol for students returning from medical leave is inadequate and unfair.

I'm not the only one in this situation. Other undergrads were put into grad housing after returning from other kinds of leaves, or even because HRS simply double-booked their guaranteed housing and then didn't have anywhere else to put them. With the impending closure of East Campus for renovation, I only expect this situation to get worse. The fact that HRS has guaranteed EC residents housing makes me almost 100% confident that I will not live on campus for the rest of my time here, and likewise for anybody not already guaranteed housing. It's awful that this should be a factor in anyone's decision, but if you are thinking about taking a leave in the next few years, you now need to consider what you will do for housing for the rest of your time at MIT.

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84 THE JULIUS ADAMS STRATTON BUILDING
THRIFT SHOPPE

MELISSA JIMENEZ CAMEJO—THE TECH

Students browse items at the Spring Pop-up Thrift Shop + Donation Drive organized by UA Sustain, Friday.

KATE LU—THE TECH

The MIT Figure Skating Club presents their annual spring exhibition, themed Throwback, Sunday.

Hangman!
Feel Free to Use-Save TF

MICHELLE XIANG—THE TECH

Students crochet and knit during SaveTFP's Cookies and Crafts Night, Friday.

VIVIAN'S REFLECTIONS

A Song's Lasting Impressions

Reasons I want to cry.

By Vivian Hir

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

"*Su Shi's Prelude to Water Melody* (水调歌头) poem is the basis for one of Teresa Teng's most famous songs, *Wishing We Last Forever* (但愿人长久). Let's watch the music video." The name of the song doesn't ring a bell, but I am curious as to what a thousand-year-old Chinese poem about the moon and longing sounds like in modern times. The Chinese calligraphy teacher dims the lights and an 80s Chinese music video appears on the screen.

Teresa Teng gracefully walks up the stage in a simple yet stunning traditional Chinese dress and mist surrounds her, making her look like a divine figure. There is gentle piano and violin music that plays in the introduction, causing me to suddenly feel nostalgic for a thing that I can't quite pinpoint. I instantly recognize the tune — it's the song I have heard countless times in the family car growing up, from excursions to rural places in Taiwan to ski trips in the Rockies. Despite the song's familiarity, I can't recall the exact lyrics, let alone the name of the song.

When the instrumental music fades away and the camera turns to the singer's innocent face, I start to feel a lump in my throat. It's only the beginning of the music video, yet intuition tells me that this song will make me cry. As she sings, I try to take deep breaths, but my chest still feels tight. All I can think about is her gorgeous voice and how angelic she appears while singing. Unlike listening to the song on CD, watching the music video adds an extra dimension and makes the song much more emotional.

Throughout the music video, intense emotions bubble up to the surface, and I feel like crying for so many reasons that seem to contradict one another — I am touched, amazed, and nostalgic at the same time. These are only a few words that describe my emotional state. I can't contain myself anymore, and one thought leads to another as if it were a cascade.

Watching Teng sing with such elegance pains me because all I can think about is how tragic it was that she passed away unexpectedly at the young age of 42. Despite her short lifespan, she achieved so much in her career by revolutionizing Chinese pop music in the 80s and becoming one of the first Chinese singers to garner fans beyond China and Asia. In essence, Teresa Teng broke down language barriers.

Teresa Teng's short life isn't the only reason my heart swells. I want to cry simply because of the timelessness of the lyrics. Our current lives are so vastly different from those who lived in the Song Dynasty almost a thousand years ago, yet the themes of homesickness and longing in Su Shi's poem remain relatable to this day. Likewise, the moon is the silent companion we still turn to when we miss our family and friends far away. In the context of Chinese culture, the moon is a symbol for the Mid-Autumn Festival, a holiday in which families reunite and participate in moon gazing.

Societies change, forms of technology change, but one thing that has stayed the same for the past one thousand years is the moon's cyclical nature of waxing and waning: full moon to new moon. Listening to an ancient classical Chinese poem in the form of a well-known song that preserves its original meaning is beautiful. That a society's culture and history can be maintained so well and passed on from generation to generation despite a country's various struggles and turmoil is what really moves me.

The more I think about the poem's enduring nature in Chinese society, the more I regret it. I spent all these years of my life listening to these Chinese songs on repeat in the car without trying to understand their meaning or attempting to appreciate the language. It's not just being unaware of this particular song's significance beforehand that makes me want to cry.

Living in Taiwan during my late childhood sparked my curiosity about Chinese culture, but I wish I had taken extra steps to learn more about China's interesting historical events and figures. I wonder why I delayed learning so much until taking IAP Chinese Calligraphy. How ironic it is that I overlooked the various nuggets of Chinese culture when I lived in Taiwan, only to miss the place after leaving. I now want to see the masterpieces of Chinese calligraphy in Taiwan's National Museum.

I feel like a bubble that's about to burst because if there's one thing that is preventing me from becoming closer to my mom and relatives in China, it is the lack of knowledge I have about Chinese culture. For the majority of my life, I lived in the US and immersed myself in Western culture. While I appreciate listening to classical music and reading Western fiction, some part of me feels that I am missing out.

The generational gap between a parent and child will always exist, but I feel that there's also a cultural gap between my mom and me. Although I am fluent in Chinese, we grew up studying different classics, learning different content in history classes, and so forth. We simply aren't on the same page.

I know nothing about great Chinese literary works like *The Dream of the Red Chamber* (红楼梦). My knowledge of Chinese poets is limited to a couple I learned of recently from the Chinese Calligraphy class and a few from primary school. And there's so much of China's rich two-thousand-year-old history that I haven't even heard about.

Su Shi's homesickness in the poem is like my current situation: I miss and romanticize living in Taiwan as it feels farther and farther away, but I am aware that having a continued interest in Chinese language and culture can restore this fraying connection.

"但愿人长久，千里共婵娟 *(May we all be blessed with longevity, though thousands of miles apart, we are still able to share the beauty of the moon)."*

AUNTIE MATTER

Roommate Grief

Auntie Matter on asking for and giving space

My roommate's pet recently passed away suddenly, and they have been incredibly sad and distraught over the loss. I have comforted them and given them the necessary space in our dorm room when they want to be alone or FaceTime their parents when they are sad.

However, while I understand that they are going through something very hard, their incessant sobbing and sudden breakdowns, as well as their impromptu 1 AM phone calls to family to sob over their pet for two hours have been preventing me from sleeping, as their grief has them cooped up in our room for the majority of the day, for over a week now. I want to do my best to support my roommate through this, but I also live in our room and need to rest. What should I do?

Tired and Concerned

Dear Tired,

You mentioned that grief has kept your roommate cooped up in their room for the majority of the day. Letting your roommate stay inside for a long time is probably just as harmful to your roommate's ability to recover from their loss as it is to you having your own space to rest. Giving your roommate space when they want to be alone is definitely a good thing to do, but you can also consider asking them to hang out or grab a meal with you every now and then. You can't make it appear as if nothing has happened, but perhaps you could bring some sense of normalcy back to their life and offer an ear to hear them talk about their struggles.

If you'd like to resolve the nighttime calls issue independently, I recommend gently informing them that you've been having trouble sleeping and offering up some potential solutions for your predicament. You could guarantee, for example, that your roommate has the room to themselves every day from 7–9 pm (or whatever time is suitable) to call their family privately. Sometimes it's hard to see other people's struggles when you yourself are struggling, so it's possible your roommate isn't even aware of the issue. Bringing up this issue can be a daunting task, of course, but you can ease the tension by coming prepared with potential alternative arrangements.

You should also consider approaching your GRA to ask them for help in arranging a temporary alternative arrangement. Sometimes your needs and your roommate's needs might differ, and that's okay. Most dorms have at least one or two free rooms, and I'm sure they would be happy to accommodate you once they learn of your situation. If you don't feel comfortable talking to your GRA, you could also talk to your Heads of House or Area Director.

The Tech is looking for editorial cartoonists.

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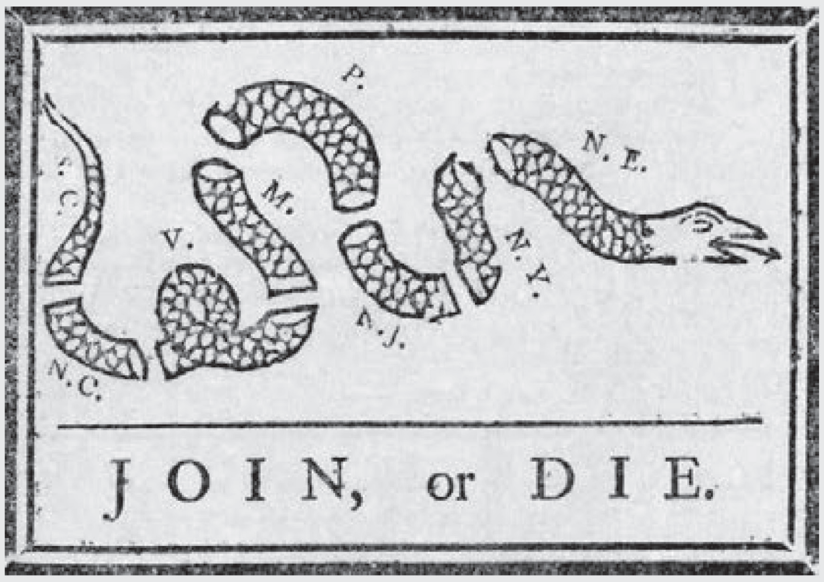

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Pi Day 2023

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH

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3.1415926535897

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LIMIT ONE PIE PER PERSON
Apple Pie
Chocolate Eclair Pie
Table Talk

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH

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ELLIE'S GAMING CORNER

Scars Above offers an intense sci-fi Soulslike experience with more fieldwork than fighting

It's Tomb Raider but in space.

★★★★☆

Scars Above

Prime Matter

Feb 28, 2023

By Ellie Montemayor
PRODUCTION EDITOR

Scars Above is an indie video game title that does its best to emulate some of the 1960s' most memorable alien invasion literature, unashamedly incorporating various themes from extraterrestrial stories to craft its adventure-based storyline. It works, for the most part. Developed by studio Mad Head Games and published by Prime Matter, *Scars Above* follows the story of scientist Kate Ward of the Sentient Contact Assessment and Response (SCAR) team as they interact with an alien structure known as the "Metahedron." It's a very *2001: A Space Odyssey*-esque story, but I'd be lying if I said the game didn't deliver with its extraterrestrial terror.

From the get-go, *Scars Above* flaunts its strengths as a tried-and-true sci-fi narrative, opening with a surprisingly well-developed — though technically unpolished — cinematic onboard the SCAR team's starship as they prepare to conduct fieldwork to understand the Metahedron's mysterious appearance and origins. Their attempts to probe into the impenetrable construction goes awry, and the team is transported à la *2001* to a hostile extraterrestrial planet. Kate comes across plinths that echo the monoliths of the *Space Odyssey* series, meets an imposing alien that looks suspiciously like *Dragon Ball*'s Frieza, and the game takes off from there.

Throughout the game, the player is treated to Kate's miscellaneous ramblings while she records log entries of the flora and fauna she encounters — both peacefully and violently — as she explores the planet, putting her academic background in xenobiology to the test. Scars Above is outstanding in this sense, and the game's science and faux-research mechanics are quite developed. Kate scans each enemy she kills, taking note of the downed creatures' physiological and often societal characteristics on-the-fly; she stops to understand the nature of the planet's complex ecosystems and even scrutinizes the rocks and minerals scattered around the different regions she explores. Kate's log entries, covering everything from blue sky fresias' lack of chloroplasts and arachnid jumpers' physiologies to ancient ruins' internal conduction systems, are weirdly substantive.

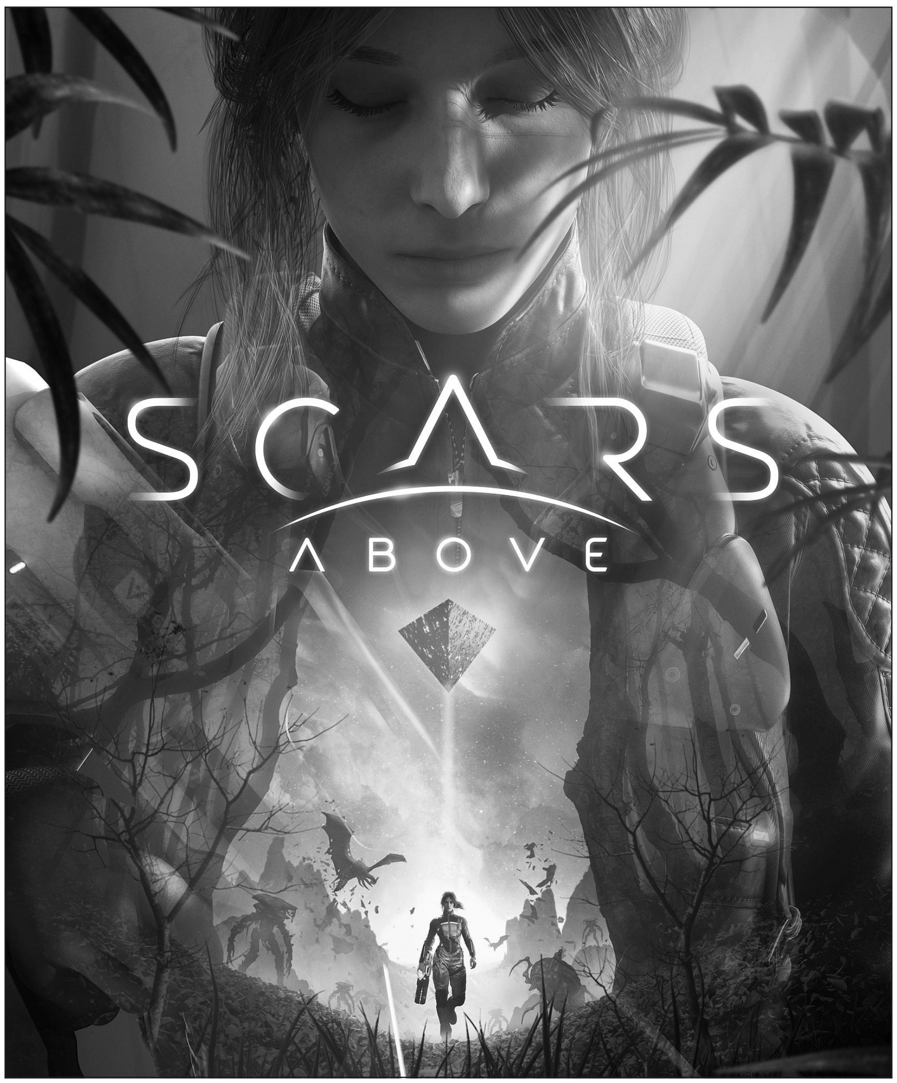

PHOTO COURTESY OF PRIME MATTER

***Scars Above* is a Soulslike action adventure game** published by Prime Matter — who previously published the similarly-styled survival horror *The Chant* — with fun xenobiology research mechanics and riveting moments of cinematic mastery.

The planet's visually defeatist wilderness is a touch too *Death Stranding*, though I appreciate the attention to detail with the admittedly derivative (yet nonetheless immersive) Xenomorph-esque monster fauna and the forgettably exotic flora.

With regards to its eeriness, the game was surprisingly scary, but in a good way. Actual jumpscares with the Cronenbergey monsters were a particular source of grief for me, and on more than one occasion I jumped back in moments of true terror (with yelps that were much too loud) during inopportune quiet hours in my dorm.

Despite all its immersion, Scars Above has more than its fair share of technical blips and design snags. Textures overall just feel off: liquid and landscape textures are awkward and don't fully mesh with the environment, lighting and shadowing often feel wrong, and there is a frustrating level of uncanny valley with the characters' seemingly uninterested faces. (It's not a good look when the most viscerally emotional moments come from when Kate's back is turned to the player.) Awesome and excessively flamboyant sci-fi visual effects only just barely make up for the rough textures.

Still, there was a fair amount of graphical and gameplay control awarded to the player, with the standard set of user-adjustable settings that more and more games seem to do away with. Controller support is sufficient — the player doesn't suffer any more or less using a controller versus MKB — and the ability to hot-change difficulty in-game was a welcome addition (though any actual change was minimal as death approached from every corner anyways).

Mechanically, the game is pretty middling, though not in a bad way. *Scars Above* features some tame RPG mechanics with its ability tree's xenobiology and engineering branches (representing Kate's two Yale PhDs), and the player unlocks four elemental weapons throughout the course of gameplay. This is quite sufficient for getting through the various simple puzzle obstacles presented in the main path, but not quite enough to make it past the sheer difficulty curve of each area's countless enemies.

I loathe to call it a Soulslike just because of its science theme and shooter-based fighting, but it nonetheless has those mechanics (most notably, repeated death at the hands of the same non-boss enemies) to justify its place in the ranks of the faux-Soulsbornes. It's not a AAA title, so a certain level of jank and iffy design is to be expected — but for an AA-level studio, *Scars Above* is worth checking out for those action-adventurers looking for that unique *Death Stranding*/*Dark Souls*/*Mass Effect* amalgamation that this game offers.

Scars Above is available on PC, PlayStation, and Xbox for $39.99. Notice: this review was written using PC game codes provided to The Tech by the game's publisher.

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WEEKLY PLANNER

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Stunning Sweets

A treasure chest of showstopping desserts.

★★★★☆

Goldbelly

Global, $$$

goldbelly.com

Open Sun–Thu
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By Kelly Kim

A life-sized Spider-Man balloon (stashed amidst UberEats orders) greeted me at McCormick after a long day of classes on my birthday. After I dragged Peter Parker to my room, I thanked my parents over FaceTime for their surprise birthday delivery. They informed me that there was also a package waiting for me in the mailroom. To my surprise, a huge package from Goldbelly was addressed to me.

The chilled package contained an irresistible-looking chocolate cake from Ina Garten's selections on Goldbelly. I knew that this was the famous Beatty's Chocolate Cake that she had made on an episode of her hit Food Network show *Barefoot Contessa*. (Yes, I'm also shocked that I remember a singular recipe from the thousands of Food Network episodes I have watched.) I only had an hour until crew practice, and the cake had to be defrosted overnight in the refrigerator. My treat would have to wait. I could tell Spider-Man was getting jealous and worried that he would no longer be the superior birthday present.

When the time came to finally slice into the cake with my roommates and another friend, we eagerly grabbed our forks as the decadent layers were exposed. The cake itself was moist and fudgy, while the frosting provided the perfect smooth counterbalance of texture without adding too much sweetness.

As someone who enjoys cake more than frosting, the ratio between the two was just right. The deep and rich chocolate flavor not only comes from the chocolate itself but also from Ina's secret ingredient that is known for accentuating the flavors of chocolate: fresh brewed coffee. While there is no coffee flavor, the chocolate shines even brighter with its presence. (A tip for any baker looking to improve their chocolate desserts!)

Goldbelly is a famous company that offers specialty food items from famous restaurants and chefs, ranging from oversized and plump New York bagels from Essa Bagel to Guy Fieri's trash can nachos. But one of the most popular items is the viral PieCaken by celebrity pastry chef Zac Young (who you might have seen on various Food Network and Cooking Channel shows). His creation has been admired by celebrities like Kelly Ripa and Oprah Winfrey.

Like a savory turducken (but a lot prettier), the PieCaken is a single dessert containing multiple treats. The Original T-Day PieCaken, typically ordered for Thanksgiving, perfectly marries all of the traditional Thanksgiving pies. With a pecan pie base, pumpkin pie middle, spice cake top layer, and cinnamon buttercream and apple pie filling adorning the top, this all-in-one showstopper allows guests to not have to choose between their favorite Thanksgiving pies. While enjoying the Original T-Day PieCaken over Thanksgiving Break, my family and I were not only mesmerized by its construction and concept, but also thoroughly enjoyed the flavor. Despite the differences between the desserts, the flavors merged well, with my dad's favorite part being the apple pie filling. What's even better is that the Original T-Day PieCaken is available all year round to order!

When I returned to campus and the holidays rolled around, my stress increased as the final exam period neared. But food, especially desserts, always finds a way to relieve any stress a student may be feeling. And if any dessert can reverse the spelling of "stressed" to "desserts" and reinforce the holiday spirit, it would be the Winter PieCaken.

The shipping process was similar to the chocolate cake. After unpacking the cake and letting it defrost overnight in the refrigerator, I excitedly sliced into it as my roommates watched in awe. The brightness of the sprinkles gave way to the beautifully constructed inner layers, which consisted of a chocolate pecan pie base, eggnog cheesecake middle, red velvet cake top layer, a coat of cherry pie filling, and an amaretto buttercream frosting.

Unlike the Thanksgiving PieCaken, the pecan pie layer in the Winter PieCaken had chocolate chips, which provided a contrasting crunch to the pecans that I enjoyed more than the plain pecan pie. Even though I do not drink eggnog, the spices in the eggnog cheesecake elevated the flavor and gave it a festive spin. My favorite was the red velvet cake layer. Part of why I like red velvet cake is because of its partner in crime: cream cheese frosting. I was shocked to find myself not missing the tang of the cream cheese at all.

The amaretto, which is an Italian liquor usually made from almond and apricot pits, gave a strong almond flavor mixed with a more delicate cherry flavor, reminding me of the filling of an almond croissant. Dare I say that it was even better than cream cheese frosting? Out of my group of friends, the cherry pie filling received one vote as the favorite component, while the chocolate pecan layer got two votes. It was such a hit that one of my friends walked all the way from New Vassar to McCormick just to have a slice.

And finally, to celebrate our survival, my friends and I shared the Valentine's Day PieCaken (essentially a pink, red and white version of the Winter PieCaken) at the start of the spring semester. It contains the same red velvet cake layer, vanilla cheesecake middle layer, chocolate pecan pie bottom, and is covered in countless sprinkles and a raspberry buttercream.

The layers reminded me of the Winter one, but the chocolate pecan pie had a fudgy filling as opposed to just chocolate chips. Not surprisingly, this PieCaken was also a hit, and all of my friends came back for more slices throughout the week. As someone trying to watch my weight due to the upcoming spring racing season for lightweight crew, this indulgent dessert may not have been the best thing to consume, but was well worth it anyway.

As I reflect on all three of these Goldbelly desserts, I not only wish I had a slice of the chocolate cake or PieCaken waiting for me in my mini fridge, but also realize just how much joy they brought to those around me. My favorite dessert ended up being the Winter PieCaken, and I will definitely order it again next holiday season. While all three desserts could satisfy any sweet tooth, none were overwhelming — I felt like I could go back for another slice the next day.

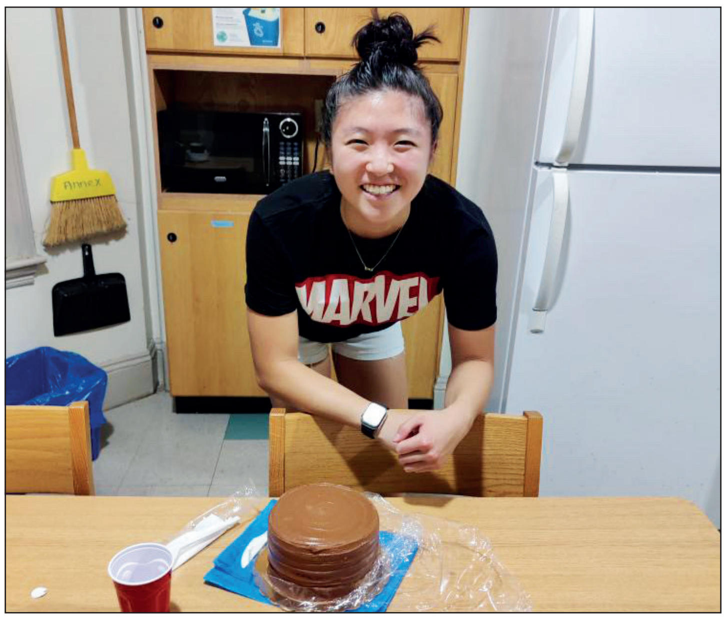
With the chocolate cake priced at $99.95 and serving 6 – 8 people, and the PieCakens priced at $99.95 and serving 10 – 12 people, they may seem like a splurge. But after the holidays are over, the price of the Winter PieCaken actually drops to $79.95. Moreover, if you split the cost with friends, I guarantee that the purchase will not be a regretful one. The cakes have come in perfect condition each time, with not a sprinkle or pipe of frosting out of place. Here are some tips on how to go about enjoying your Goldbelly treat:

Tips:

- Make sure you pick up the package as soon as it arrives.
- Defrost the cake overnight in the refrigerator and take it out 20-30 minutes before consuming. (If you prefer it colder, you can eat straight from the refrigerator.)
- Use a sharp knife to make clean cuts. As someone who tried to use a plastic knife, I speak from experience. It can crumble and make a huge mess.
- Gather your friends! In my case, I did not split it with as many people as it serves. Instead, I shared the cakes with others and saved the leftovers so that we could enjoy slices over a few days! It tasted just as good a few days after. Just be sure to repackage it and cover it well before storing it back in the refrigerator. You can also freeze it and eat it at a later time.

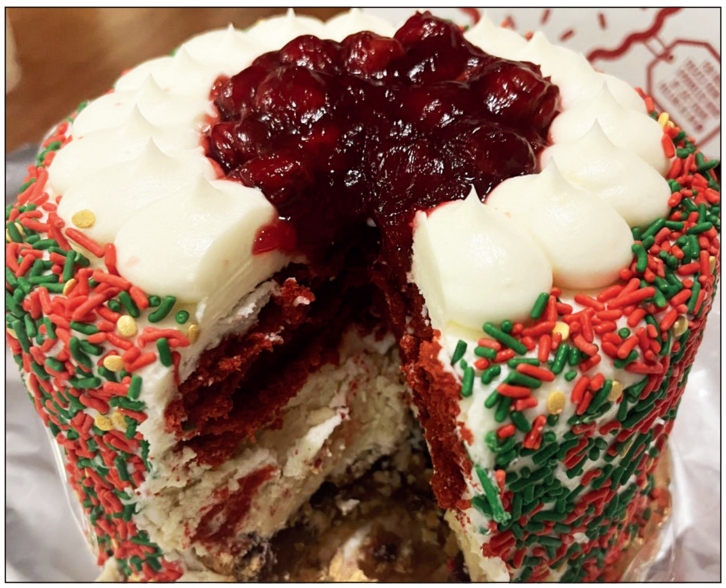
What makes the PieCaken so great is that it comes in so many varieties. In fact, there is a unique PieCaken creation for seemingly every holiday. In addition to Thanksgiving, Winter, and Valentine's Day, there is a PieCaken for St. Patrick's Day, Passover, Mother's Day, and even Fourth of July. Ina Garten also offers her famous Coconut Cake, which is perfect for those who prefer a non-chocolate dessert.

Goldbelly is a seemingly bottomless treasure chest of food, offering countless specialty food items that can satisfy just about any craving one may be having. I highly recommend scrolling through their offerings and ordering something for your next gathering or just for fun! Just make sure you are okay with putting your diet on pause.



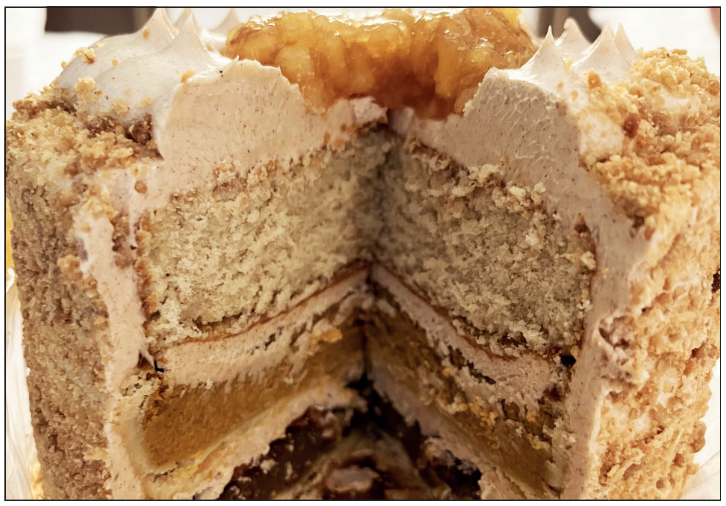
KELLY KIM—THE TECH

Beatty's Chocolate Cake by Ina Garten from Goldbelly made the perfect birthday gift and dessert to share with my friends.



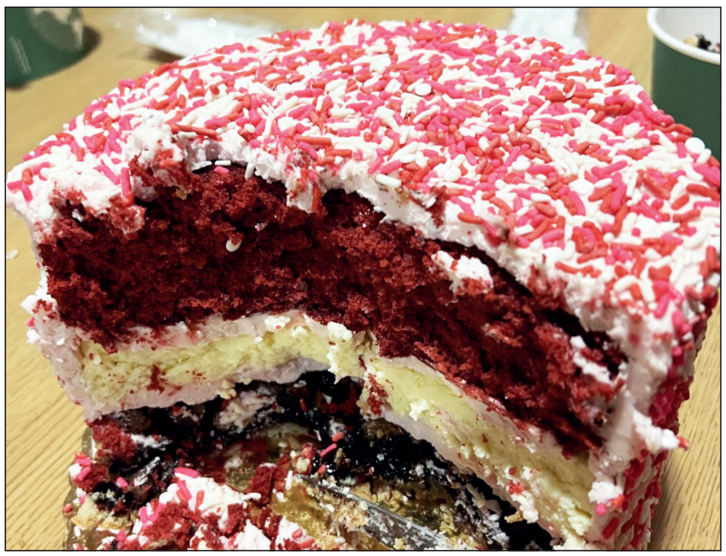
KELLY KIM—THE TECH

The Winter PieCaken was my favorite out of the four Goldbelly desserts I tried, largely due to the red velvet cake layer accompanied by the amaretto buttercream that provided a rich almondy taste that made me not even miss cream cheese frosting.



KELLY KIM—THE TECH

The Original T-Day PieCaken's cross section is stunning; each layer, while different, came together to create a harmonized dessert that my family enjoyed as our ultimate all-in-one Thanksgiving dessert.



KELLY KIM—THE TECH

The Valentine's Day PieCaken, while covered in almost too many sprinkles, made the ultimate spring semester de-stressor.

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GUEST COLUMN

A community statement on MIT’s response to hate speech

Hate speech is not a matter of nuance

The letter below was written before March 5th, 2023. The president has since released a video acknowledging the incidents described below. While we are glad the president wishes she had denounced the sentiments, this does not fully address all the harms in the early phase of the response, and our community firmly rejects the framing of these posters as a matter of nuance. We call on MIT to act consistently and immediately against hate speech when it occurs.

Dear President Kornbluth, Chancellor Nobles, and Provost Barnhart,

We represent a broad coalition of MIT communities and we denounce MIT’s response to recent posters targeting marginalized communities.

On Tuesday, February 21st, MIT staff and students arrived back from the holiday weekend to find the steps on Mass Ave and the bulletin boards along the Infinite Corridor covered with hate speech — namely homophobic slurs and anti-gay slogans. Alarmed staff and students immediately united in an effort to remove this material, which continued to be posted anonymously over a series of four days, culminating in a series of posters featuring language lifted directly from the Westboro Baptist Church.

During this time the MIT administration refused to take down posters, actively discouraged staff from taking down the posters, and when a formal response was finally shared with the MIT community, they did not condemn the posters as hate speech. Instead, they attempted to dilute the severity of the hate speech by pointing out that other controversial while non-hateful views were also included in the campaign. MIT’s statement made some suggestions as to the intentions behind these posters, but the intentions do not matter; the fact remains that MIT allowed and defended posters that featured slurs.

In the only response from the MIT administration, the Institute opted to call this speech “extreme” and full of “provocative terms.” We will call it what it is: hate speech. The fact they found the attack on their policy more distasteful than the attack on their community is telling. In contrast, two weeks earlier when the Black Graduate Student Association & Black Students’ Union posters were defaced, MIT made no meaningful acknowledgment of the attack on the Black community. In both cases, MIT’s apathetic response establishes a hostile work environment where violence and discrimination against marginalized communities is normalized and tolerated.

> **During this time the MIT administration refused to take down posters, actively discouraged staff from taking down the posters, and when a formal response was finally shared with the MIT community, they did not condemn the posters as hate speech.**

Whether staff, faculty, postdocs, graduate workers, or undergraduates, we all deserve a working and learning environment in which our walls and sidewalks are not literally festooned with slurs and hate speech. This is a bare minimum which we feel constitutes a reasonable norm for an academic community and workplace.

MIT must identify and fearlessly name hate speech when it occurs.

MIT must reject hate speech and slurs as forms of civil discourse.

MIT must demonstrate that they value the marginalized communities who live, work, and learn here.

If you would like to co-sign onto this letter as an individual or a group, please go to https://tinyurl.com/nohateatmit. The co-signing groups below that follow are current as of March 15, 2023. For the most updated list, please check https://tinyurl.com/LBGTQatMITletter.

SIGNED:
African, Black, American, Caribbean (ABAC) Employee Resource Group
Asian Pacific American Employee Resource Group
Black Graduate Student Association-Black Students’ Union
Disabilities Employee Resource Group
EECS Resources for Easing Friction and Stress (REFS)

G@MIT (Gay at MIT)
LatinX Graduate Student Association (LGSA)
LBGTQ+ Employee Resource GroupLGBTQ+ Grad
Millennials Employee Resource Group
MIT Asian American Initiative (AAI) Exec
MIT Graduate Student Union
MIT Libraries, Committee for the Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion (CPDI)
MIT Musical Theatre Guild
MIT Postdoctoral Association
MIT Postdoctoral Organization for Women Engaged in Research (MIT-POWER)
qtPhDs @ MIT LGBTQIA+ Postdoctoral Group
Queer Advocacy Space in AeroAstro
Womxn of Materials Science

Leave *marks*,
not sharks!
Email
join@tech.mit.edu

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Publisher William Xu, Editor in Chief Srinidhi Narayanan, Managing Editor Arun Wongprommoon, Executive Editor Eunice Zhang, and the opinion editor, a position that is currently vacant.

Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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GUEST COLUMN

MIT Reflections: Does MIT fulfill the values it claims?

BSU/BGSA call For sincere fulfillment of MIT values and public safety reform.

By Ayantu Tamene, Brianna Roundtree, Nicole Harris, and Tamea Cobb

On February 8th at 11:40 AM, during the 49th annual MLK Luncheon, 40 Black students mobilized and entered Walker Memorial despite the event being at capacity.

While Dr. Angela Davis' activism and scholarship brings great inspiration, Black students did not mobilize to see her. Nor did they stand in the room because they were dying to have lunch with administration.

Black students entered the event to demonstrate that we will not be silenced and to ensure our experiences are not sanitized for the comfort of others.

This effort was organized in response to malicious events that occurred during the first week of classes, but Black people on campus deal with nearly constant affronts that spur our organizing including daily racial aggressions, traumatizing encounters with MIT police, and years-long deferrals on meaningful action to address our needs. What happened in the first week of classes, detailed below, is both symbolic and symptomatic of larger issues of anti-Blackness within the Institute.

> **Black students entered the event to demonstrate that we will not be silenced and to ensure our experiences are not sanitized for the comfort of others.**

Black Hack Summary

Each year during Black History Month, the Black Student Union (BSU) and Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) take over MIT's Lobby 7 for "Black Hack," an installation and/or demonstration often used to celebrate Black scholars or amplify issues that affect Black people on campus.

In preparation for this year's Black Hack, the BSU received permission for an installation in Lobby 7. On Monday, February 6, students hung posters that posed two key questions: "What actually are MIT's values?" and "What makes a welcoming community?" Black students answered these questions with chalked replies on the poster that revealed a stark contrast between the lived experiences of Black students, and MIT's official values portrayed by the five brightly-colored, billboard-scale banners that run floor to ceiling in Lobby 7. The lived experiences of Black students do not reflect an environment of "Belonging and Community," "Openness and Respect," or "Excellence and Curiosity," as purported by the MIT Values statement. Less than 12 hours after being displayed, the Black Hack installation was defaced.

Concerns written by Black students from the BSU, like the persistence of "ignorance", "optics over action", "covering up problems", and "gentrification", were crossed out and rewritten by unknown actors as "knowledge", "action", "problem solving", and "development," respectively.

The perspectives and experiences of Black students were crossed out, sanitized, and editorialized.

> **The lived experiences of Black students do not reflect an environment of "Belonging and Community," "Openness and Respect," or "Excellence and Curiosity," as purported by the MIT Values statement.**

Monday night, Black students went out again to display flyers explaining what happened. Flyers were placed all through Lobby 7, down the infinite, and surrounding the original posters. The vandalized poster was left up purposely as it was exemplary evidence of the lived experience of Black students at MIT; when we raise concerns, speak out, or challenge systems that harm us, members of the MIT community do not believe us.

By Tuesday morning, all of these flyers had been taken down. All that remained was the vandalized banner. This is what spurred students to mobilize and disrupt the MLK Luncheon on February 8th.

> **When we raise concerns, speak out, or challenge systems that harm us, members of the MIT community do not believe us.**

The Larger Problem

Does MIT fulfill the values it claims? In April 2022, then-President Rafael Reif, Provost Cynthia Barnhart, and Chancellor Melissa Nobles shared the values statement with the community.

However, releasing a statement does not materially change the environment at MIT. In order to "face difficult facts, speak plainly about failings in our systems, and work to overcome them" (as proclaimed in the values statement), the Institute must follow through on its commitments. We are tired of nice words and drawn-out committee processes; we demand that MIT take action to promote student public safety and DEI efforts in concrete ways. We demand transparency.

The Black Hack demonstration is yet another example of a lack of fulfillment on behalf of the Institute. Although MIT administration has attempted to display that they are listening to the voices of Black students, their actions have been inadequate and superficial.

> **Although MIT administration has attempted to display that they are listening to the voices of Black students, their actions have been inadequate and superficial.**

For example, The MIT Strategic Action Plan for Belonging, Achievement, & Composition, released earlier last semester, features many optional diversity initiatives — such as training that is 'encouraged' but not required for faculty and supervisors, and overall lacks any clear structures regarding accountability for instances of racial discrimination and bias, despite repeated protests from students on the Strategic Planning Committee. Similar to this plan, many DEI initiatives at MIT take years to complete but don't tangibly improve the culture at MIT, and we are left with a similar set of optional recommendations with minimal action.

This is not a standalone incident; there is a longstanding history of MIT administration making empty promises to students and not using the entirety of their many resources to see them through sincerely.

> **There is a longstanding history of MIT administration making empty promises to students and not using the entirety of their many resources to see them through sincerely.**

In 2015, administration committed to execute demands made by the Black Students' Union and Black Graduate Student Association. However, the implementation of these demands falls short. One of the things the Institute committed to was creating a Diversity representative in each department. And although many academic departments have hired diversity officers, they face a large financial burden, as MIT doesn't provide them with allocated funding to follow through on DEI initiatives.

Another demand centered on increasing accountability for departmental performance, specifically on the data for the matriculation and graduation rates of underrepresented graduate students. In response to this demand, a Diversity Dashboard was created to give more details about demographics across the institute, which explores gender and race/ethnicity of the MIT community by school, degree, and gives graduation rates by race for the past few years. In contrast, the leadership of each department receives a curated report on "demographic comparisons"; this includes important information on representation within majors, flux between majors, and graduation rates for each department and lab that is not available to everyone else.

With this, the administration is still refusing Black students the full transparency of information that we are demanding. Instead, we have been left with a familiar sidelining and lack of tangible action, or thorough plan to act: "The strategic action plan for diversity, equity and inclusion will further address this recommendation."

> **With this, the administration is still refusing Black students the full transparency of information that we are demanding.**

Public Safety

We see a similar lack of transparency and meaningful change in the Institute's hollow improvements to public safety on campus. Three years ago, after the "national reckoning" following the murder of George Floyd by police, and after concerns of police bias arose on campus, over 5,000 MIT community members organized to demand substantive changes to policing and public safety. The need to reimagine public safety predates George Floyd and still persists. Just in January, 29 year old Tyre Nichols was beaten by Memphis police during a traffic stop and later died in the hospital. After the release of footage from a body camera and a nearby street camera, it was found that the footage contradicted the story of the officers on duty.

> **We see a similar lack of transparency and meaningful change in the Institute's hollow improvements to public safety on campus.**

Issues with the modern policing system have also touched us locally with the fatal shooting of UMass student Arif Sayed Faisal by Cambridge PD when he was having a mental health crisis, a mere block away from Pika, an independent living group at MIT. And yet MIT has not made a statement, much less having a conversation on public safety and police reform. The fact that MIT PD's policies are "very similar" to those of Cambridge PD is especially alarming and evidence that the change is overdue. MIT's approach to public safety must evolve in response to this persistent inadequacy of policing seen over hundreds of years of American history, and in our own backyard with Faisal.

To address issues regarding public safety at MIT, the Working Group on Reimagining Public Safety at MIT was formed in 2020. After two years, the administration published a condensed summary of the recommendations that proposed several changes that would begin to transform public safety on campus including having unarmed community service officers (CSOs) and/or clinicians respond to routine calls and mental health calls, instead of police. However, these recommendations have not been committed to. Although MIT has acknowledged that many Boston-area schools have implemented unarmed CSOs, MIT still hasn't adopted similar measures, which already have existing models that are ready for implementation. In fact, former President Reif called these solutions "far-reaching," and instead, the administration has planned to consider how to enact these changes. Following a working group drawing upon undergraduate and graduate students devoting their labor to this serious issue, no substantive changes have been explicitly committed to. Further, MIT has withheld the full, data-driven report that was created during the working group, another salient example of non-transparency.

> **Following a working group drawing upon undergraduate and graduate students devoting their labor to this serious issue, no substantive changes have been explicitly committed to.**

We are tired of the constant cycle of issues that impact us being shuttled to working groups and committees that end up going nowhere and result in no concrete implementation of solutions. It feels as if the Institute waits for us to exhaust our energy for change, until the issue fades into the background, unattended to until it happens again, and then we're back at square one. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whom the Institute celebrated this month, is famous for the quote "Justice delayed, is justice denied." Following these words, we say enough is enough and we won't let this issue of public safety be delayed any longer.

> **It feels as if the Institute waits for us to exhaust our energy for change, until the issue fades into the background, unattended to until it happens again, and then we're back at square one.**

Demand 1:

We demand that MIT, in the name of full transparency regarding public safety, release the full report created by the Reimagining Public Safety working group. As a school dedicated to shaping the next generation of engineers, scientists and problem solvers, we deserve to see these findings to ensure that a sound, data-driven approach is being pursued for the protection of the MIT community.

Demand 2:

We demand that MIT swiftly implements an alternative, unarmed response to routine calls and mental health crises. Other campuses have implemented such solutions already. The need is apparent and requires action now.

We hope President Sally Kornbluth will chart a new path for MIT where the concerns of Black students are listened to and acted upon, rather than silenced and sidelined as they have been in the past.

If MIT truly wishes to live up to its own values of belonging and being a welcoming community to all of its members, these demands are only the first step. Until we see substantive changes, we will not be silent.

Ayantu Tamene is a 1st-year undergraduate student in Computer Science and Molecular Biology and a member of the MIT Black Students' Union.

Brianna Roundtree is a 1st-year undergraduate student in Computer Science and a member of the MIT Black Students' Union.

Nicole Harris is a 3rd-year undergraduate student in Biological Engineering and the Co-chair of the MIT Black Students' Union.

Tamea Cobb is a 3rd-year undergraduate student in Chemical Engineering and the Secretary of the MIT Black Students' Union.

GUEST COLUMN

Student leaders call for real recourse NOW!

To guarantee an equitable and respectful workplace, we deserve a fair and empowering union grievance procedure

By Tunahan Aytas, Austin Cole, Hana Flores, Vanessa Hernandez-Cruz, and Mila Lubeck

Dear fellow graduate student workers,

On Friday, February 17, 2023, members of various campus communities at MIT — the Black Graduate Students Association (BGSA), the Latinx Graduate Student Association (LGSA), LGBTQ Grad, the DEI Committee of the Graduate Student Council (GSC DEI), and a current student alum of the MIT Summer Research Program — sat across the bargaining table from various MIT administrators and lawyers hired to represent MIT. We shared powerful, emotional, and brutally honest statements presenting our own and fellow students' experiences facing harassment, discrimination, and bullying at MIT.

To deal with incidents of harassment and discrimination like this, the institute currently presents Institute Harassment and Discrimination Response (IDHR) as the only path for recourse, stating that it is indeed trusted by the grad population. How can this be the case when a survey run by the Association of American Universities reports that 39.4% of grad students reported experiencing harassing behavior, yet less than 1% utilized IDHR?

> **We shared powerful, emotional, and brutally honest statements presenting our own and fellow students' experiences facing harassment, discrimination, and bullying at MIT.**

Speaking to fellow grad workers from our various communities, the reasons WHY they don't trust IDHR vary — the NDA before a mediated conversation; the inherent bias of MIT having final say on the resolution at the end of the process; the process itself feeling isolating & burdensome to the person in need of a resolution.

Further, IDHR only covers cases of protected class, which means it does not cover cases of power-based harassment, more commonly called bullying. As workers who depend on the institute and PIs for employment and livelihood, grad workers are in a position of vulnerability that demands that we be supported by a fair and comprehensive grievance process covered under this contract.

> **How can this be the case when a survey run by the Association of American Universities reports that 39.4% of grad students reported experiencing harassing behavior, yet less than 1% utilized IDHR?**

When presented with grad workers' experiences at the Institute, why grad workers may not trust and/or utilize the IDHR process, and why an alternative may serve us better, MIT admin met us with excuses and invalidation. The MIT administration may try to represent proceedings as collegial and collaborative, or state they value belonging and community. But once again, their words and reality don't match up.

> **But once again, their words and reality don't match up.**

We are demanding that the MIT admin agrees to a process for harassment, discrimination, and bullying that grad workers can trust will result in real recourse. To guarantee an equitable and respectful workplace, we deserve a fair and empowering union grievance procedure that includes:

- The right to file grievances about bullying, identity-based harassment and discrimination, thereby empowering workers to address and seek recourse for these mistreatments;
- A clear, fair, process for handling misconduct which prioritizes improving the well-being of the student;
- The right to the full support of our union, including a trained, experienced, and legally protected union steward at the grad worker's side through the entire conflict resolution procedure, so that no one has to navigate these problems alone; and
- The right to escalate adjudication to a third-party neutral arbitrator (not an Institute-affiliated group) if cases cannot be resolved through mutual discussion

> **We are demanding that the MIT admin agrees to a process for harassment, discrimination, and bullying that grad workers can trust will result in real recourse.**

If you wish to support these demands to build a more fair and welcoming MIT for graduate students, please sign your or your student group's name in the attached form.

In solidarity,

Tunahan Aytas, Co-president, LGBTQ+ Grad

Austin Cole, Political Action Committee Co-Chair, BGSA

Hana Flores, MSRPxBio 2020 Alum

Vanessa Hernandez-Cruz, Social Events Chair, LGSA

Mila Lubeck, Treasurer, GSC DEI

Tunahan is a 5th year graduate student in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and Co-President of LGBTQ+ Grad.

Austin is a 2nd year Master's student in Business and City Planning and Political Action Committee Co-Chair of BGSA.

Hana is a 2nd year graduate student in the Department of Biology and MSRPxBio 2020 alum.

Vanessa is a 1st year Master's student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Social Events Chair of LGSA.

Mila is a 2nd year graduate student in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Studies and Treasurer of GSC DEI.

How's Your Day?
No really, We care!
Join the Tech & write about it!
join@tech.mit.edu

MIT Free Speech Alliance & Adam Smith Society

PRESENT

THE GREAT DEBATE

"Resolved, that academic DEI programs should be abolished."

Tuesday April 4, 2023, at MIT's Wong Auditorium (E51-115) 7:30 pm

Moderator: Nadine Strossen
Affirmative Debate Team: Heather Mac Donald and Pat Kambhampati
Negative Debate Team: Pamela Denise Long and Karith Foster

Spring Break

Solution, page 2

9							6	5
7		1			9		3	
2			6			1		
3	7	6		2			4	
	2			3		7	8	6
		2			5			8
	9		8			3		4
5	8							7

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

I Believe In You!

Solution, page 2

			1				9	3
			8		9	6		
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8	3	5	6			2		
	1		3		8		6	
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		2	5		3			
4	6				2			

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

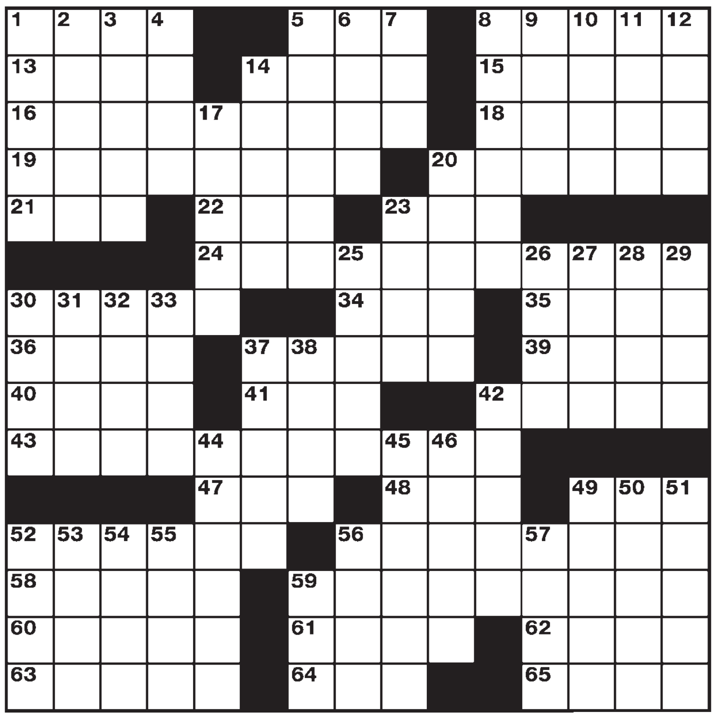
Cheese Choices

by Fred Piscop

Solution, page 2

ACROSS
01 Buck, bull or ram
05 ___ carte menu
08 Gather in quantity
13 Actor Alda
14 One with top billing
15 Turn on one foot
16 From 42nd Street to 43rd Street
18 Self-esteem
19 Have no accomplices
20 Two-person playground ride
21 Itty-bitty
22 Non-prescription: Abbr.
23 Place for a massage
24 Reverse direction quickly
30 Hands over legally
34 Scratch up
35 Soft French cheese
36 *Jeopardy!* host before Ken and Mayim
37 Cats' weapons
39 Doing mess hall duty
40 Adjective for "India" ale
41 Luau garland
42 Return to 000
43 Realistic TV ad style
47 Hill-building bug
48 Dad, to Grandpa
49 Encountered
52 Cherry red
56 Ancestor
58 Writer of poetic tributes
59 Golf club for a trap
60 Auto owner's document
61 ___ and crafts
62 Bank's property claim

DOWN
01 Brightly colored parrot
02 Guest of the Mad Hatter
03 Foamy coffeehouse order
04 Irish New Age singer
05 Without delay
06 Shoe's string
07 Genesis ship
08 Come into view
09 Swampy ground
10 Rival of Hertz
11 Fast-food beverage
12 Slow cooker concoction
14 Slow-moving mammal
17 Gusts of wind
20 Trains in a ring
23 Serving
25 Online message
26 Woodwind instrument
27 Large vases
28 Reebok competitor
29 Corp. division
30 Tops of mushrooms
31 Israeli airline
32 Cold cuts department
33 Corporate officer
37 Genetic duplicate
38 Went away
42 Extend a subscription
44 Sunday after Lent
45 Knows the truth about
46 Crosses, as a stream
49 Social ___ (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
50 Anxious to get started
51 What's in vogue
52 Canvas beds
53 Revise prose
54 Solemn ceremony
55 Robinson Crusoe's home
56 Cost of a bus ticket
57 Cat collar attachment
59 Droop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Haikus

by Eunice Zhang

PORTER

a gorgeous city
long wide roads, frolicking friends
beautiful blue sky

MBTA gifts
i've truly found paradise
hold hands, smile at life

WRITING

countless swirling thoughts
i reach forward, grasping tight
to capture a breadth

life is so hrrgy
finding time to sit and be,
words flow easily

SPRING HSSP

what's this, you might ask
highly sussy spring program,
saturday's highlight

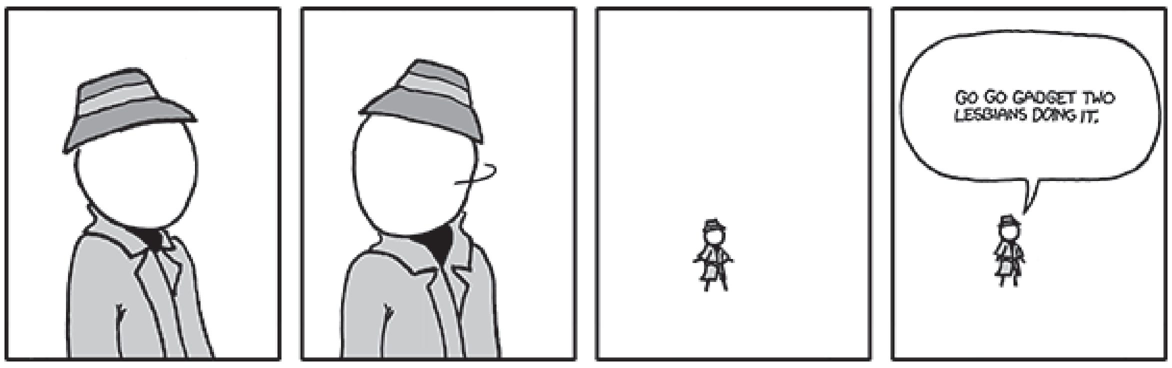
surrealism
ukuleles, chemistry—
learning is so slay

SLEEP

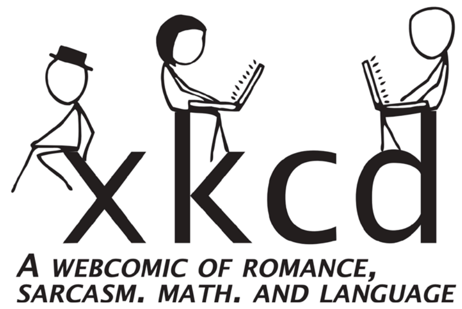
oh god, again i'm
terribly sleep deprived, oops
big headache goes 🅱rrr

bread, nertz, nice candles
theses joys feels a world away
tonight, sleep early

[1667] Algorithms

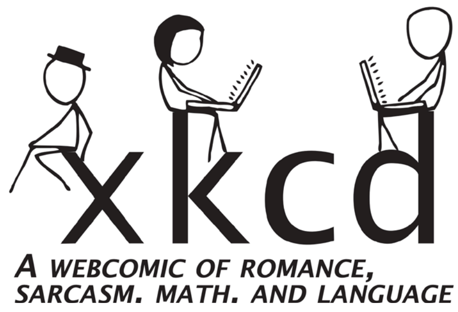

GO GO GADGET TWO LESBIANS DOING IT.

… go go gadget video camera. Go go gadget cup.

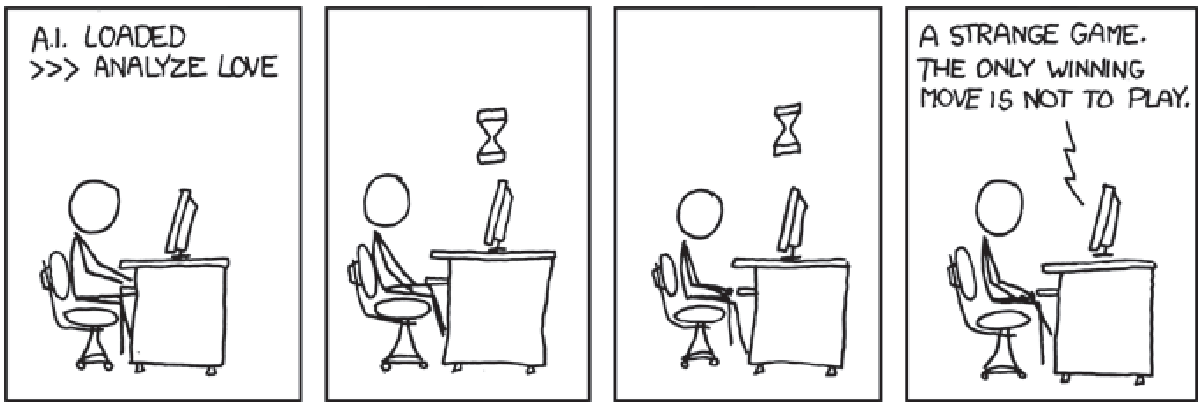

xkcd
A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE

by Randall Munroe

[601] Game Theory


xkcd
A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE

by Randall Munroe


A.I. LOADED
>>> ANALYZE LOVE
A STRANGE GAME. THE ONLY WINNING MOVE IS NOT TO PLAY.

Wait, no, that one also loses. How about a nice game of chess?

ENTERTAINMENT THIS WEEK

FILM

WILDFLOWER
(MON, MAR 20)

CHILDREN OF THE CORN
(TUE, MAR 21)

FILM

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4
(FRI, MAR 24)

CHANTILLY BRIDGE
(FRI, MAR 24)

TV

DIGMAN!
(WED, MAR 22)

UP HERE
(FRI, MAR 24)

VIDEO GAMES

DECEIVE INC.
(TUE, MAR 21)

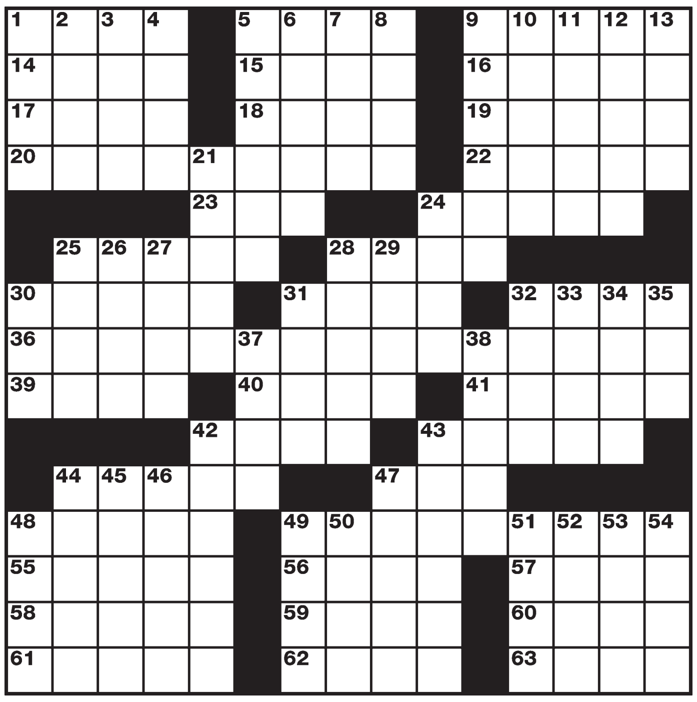
HAVE A NICE DEATH
(WED, MAR 22)

Calling Bill Haley by Chris Gross

Solution, page 2

ACROSS
01 Auto grille protector
04 Scrooge persona
09 High degrees
13 Times given names
14 Swiftly
15 Uncouth one
16 SHAKE
19 Jack's predecessor
20 Tough puzzle
21 Quebec academy
22 Enticing ads
24 Key of Beethoven's Fifth
25 Personal pronoun
26 Band-Aid competitor
28 Olympics gear
30 Cupid counterpart
31 Fave pal
34 RATTLE
39 British poet Hughes
40 Authenticating mark
41 Spectrum *couleur*
42 Creation over campfire
43 Covered (in)
45 Antivirus software name
48 Outburst
51 Alexa is heard through them
52 Glance by a ball
54 Solid-rock connector
55 ROLL
58 *Rule, Britannia!* composer
59 You are here
60 Ballet move
61 Romeo or Juliet
62 Metallic refuse
63 Vietnamese celebration

DOWN
01 Shattered
02 Pull into the lead
03 Barbecue by-product
04 Collegians' selections
05 "No, thanks"
06 Except for
07 Auto with a plug
08 Foul caller
09 Trainquil
10 Board, as a tram
11 Lego brand for little ones
12 Direct yourself
13 Send forth
17 Impressionist
18 Note verbally
23 Ostensibly be
24 Swamp dweller
26 Jumper, for example
27 Third-billed *Pulp Fiction* name
28 Setting for a NY Subway Series
29 Apple product
31 National symbol
32 Old-fashioned oath
33 Seasonal strain
35 Slip through slowly
36 Very vivid, as crayons
37 Constitution Hall org.
38 Chairlift alternative
42 Pinched or boosted
43 Cleaning supplies
44 Mary follower



45 A beginner in
46 Yellow colour
47 River through Lake Geneva
48 Bands of brothers
49 Start of a fitness motto
50 Not very bright
52 Toast too much
53 It means "for flight"
56 Become one
57 Well-chosen

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